



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR JIM STRICKLAND ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT TO DEMOLISH BLIGHTED FORMER HOTEL NEAR MEMPHIS & ARKANSAS BRIDGE

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland announced today that the blighted former hotel near the Memphis & Arkansas Bridge (Interstate 55) will be demolished under an agreement facilitated by the mayor's office and signed Wednesday by Environmental Court Referee John Cameron.

"I want to commend Lauren Crews, who owns this property, for stepping up and doing the right thing by this neighborhood and by Memphis. And I also want to commend Sara Lewis and her neighbors in the French Fort community for their advocacy," Mayor Strickland said.

Mayor Strickland recently facilitated a meeting between all parties, in which an agreement to demolish the building was developed. Mayor Strickland thanked lawyer Steve Barlow and the University of Memphis School of Law Neighborhood Preservation Clinic for their work representing the City of Memphis.

Strickland was joined at today's announcement by Super District 8 City Council members Joe Brown, Janis Fullilove and Martavius Jones.

According to the Tennessee Department of Transportation's most recent traffic counts, roughly 55,000 autos per day pass the site. For eastbound travelers coming from Arkansas, it is the first impression they have of Memphis after exiting the bridge.

The hotel at 271 W. Alston was built in 1967. It has been vacant for at least two decades. The agreement calls for demolition to be complete by Sept. 1.

"I want to be very clear: We will absolutely tackle the problems and issues that have challenged Memphis for so long," Strickland said.

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